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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/624,865

07/22/2003

Terry Joe Hanna

6971CIP

7652

29602

7590

12/07/2006

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EXAMINER

DEGHAN, QUEENIE S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1731

DATE MAILED: 12/07/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

C

Office Action Summary**Application No.**

10/624,865

Applicant(s)

HANNA ET AL.

Examiner

Queenie Dehghan

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 October 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-80 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 71-80 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-70 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 July 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. Drawing 11 is objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference character "104" has been used to designate both a linear support and a tip. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claim 2, 32 and 62 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter,

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which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Although the disclosure mentions several times laying a screen on top of a conventional screen, the Examiner fails to see where in the disclosure does a conventional screen lays on top of the support structure, and hence the screen on top of a convention screen which is on top of the support structure. If the Examiner is incorrect in this rejection, please point out the exact page and line number indicating support for the recited claims.

5. Claims 1-70 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

6. Claims 1, 31 and 61 recites the limitation "the interior support structure" in line 8. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein

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were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

9. Claims 1-70 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Coggin, Jr. (3,988,135) in view of Harris (3,628,930) or Stalego (3,810,741) and Hanna et al. (EP 1 193 225).

10. Coggin, Jr. discloses a bushing (26) capable of receiving molten material from a bushing leg of a glass tank (col. 2 lines 55-66) with two opposed side walls and two end walls (34), a tip plate (38), wherein the tip plate is attached to the side walls and end walls and the bushing having a boxlike shape with at least four interior corners (figures 6 and 7, col. 3 line 58 to col. 4 line 12). Furthermore, Coggin, Jr. discloses a screen, wherein the entire bottom of a screen (46) rest on top of an interior support structure (44) made of a precious metal (col. 4 lines 34-36), such that the screen is located so close to the top of the support structure that the distance from the bottom of the screen to the top of the support structure is less than that at which lateral flow of molten glass from cell to cell becomes significant. Furthermore, the interior support structure comprises a plurality of intersecting supports with angles and cooperates with at least one sidewall and one end wall, forming cells between the bottom of the screen and the top of the tip plate (figures 3, 5, 7 & 8, col. 4 lines 26-45, col. 5 lines 20-23).

Additionally, Coggin, Jr. discloses tips or nozzles extending from a lower surface of a tip

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plate as a typical feature in prior art (col. 1 lines 24-27). However, Coggin, Jr. fails to teach the number of orifices in the tip plate, the number of cells form from the interior support structure, or a screen containing holes with varying screen areas above the cells.

11. As mentioned, Coggin, Jr. fails to disclose a screen having a plurality of screen areas. Both Harris and Stalego teach a bushing (24, 30 in fig. 1 respectively) having a plurality of screen areas containing holes through the screen and the hole area per unit screen area being different in some screen areas than in other screen areas (col. 3 lines 45-58 & fig. 3, col. 4 lines 50-51, 58-59 & fig. 3, respectively). Doing so would allow for uniform temperature of the glass supplied to the tip plate, as taught by both Harris and Stalego. In addition, both Harris and Stalego teach of a screen in a bushing wherein a screen area closest to each corner and end wall of the bushing has a hole area per unit screen area that is substantially greater than that of the screen areas that are closest to the centerline of the screen in Figures 3 (col. 4 lines 58-59, col. 3 lines 41-59, respectively). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the screens with varying screen areas of either Harris or Stalego in the screen of Coggin, Jr. in order provide a more uniform temperature for the molten glass supplied to the tip plate, as taught by Harris and Stalego.

12. As mentioned previously, Coggin, Jr. fails to mention the number of orifices in the tip plate or the number of cells form from the interior support structure. Hanna et al. teach of an interior support structure welded to a top surface of the tip plate for supporting the tip plate ([0033]). Additionally, the tip plate has at least 1600 orifices and

hollow tips ([0030]). Furthermore, the interior support structure comprises a plurality of intersecting or crossing internal supports with angles between the intersecting supports at each intersection to form diamond shaped cells and attached to the sidewalls, end walls, and interior corners of the bushing and forming 47 cells located between the bottom of the screen and the top of the tip plate (figures 2, 4, and 5, [0033]). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the internal support structure of Hanna et al. in the bushing of Coggin, Jr. and Harris or Stalego in order to offer efficient support of the tip plate while encountering hot molten glass, as taught by Hanna et al.

Double Patenting

13. Claims 1, 31, and 61 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 2 and 21 of copending Application No. 08/929,836, as well as the claims 25, 27, 29, and 31 of the copending application 10/421,683 in view of Coggin, Jr. (3,988,135) and Hanna et al. (EP 1 193 225). Claims 1, 31, and 61 in application '865, claims 2 and 21 in copending application '836 and claims 25, 27,29, and 31 in copending application ' 683 claim a bushing comprising of at a least one side wall, a tip plate, and a screen mounted in the interior of the bushing and spaced above the top of tip plate, wherein the screen has a hole area per unit screen area that is different from other screen areas. However, application '836 and '683 do not disclose the shape of the bushing, a screen with varying screen areas and the location of the screen, the number of orifices in the tip

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plate, or an interior support structure Coggin, Jr. discloses a bushing (26) capable of receiving molten material from a bushing leg of a glass tank (col. 2 lines 55-66) with two opposed side walls and two end walls (34), a tip plate (38), wherein the tip plate is attached to the side walls and end walls and the bushing having a boxlike shape with at least four interior corners (figures 6 and 7, col. 3 line 58 to col. 4 line 12). Furthermore, Coggin, Jr. discloses a screen, wherein the entire bottom of a screen (46) rest on top of an interior support structure (44) made of a precious metal (col. 4 lines 34-36), such that the screen is located so close to the top of the support structure that the distance from the bottom of the screen to the top of the support structure is less than that at which lateral flow of molten glass from cell to cell becomes significant. Furthermore, the interior support structure comprises a plurality of intersecting supports with angles and cooperates with at least one sidewall and one end wall, forming cells between the bottom of the screen and the top of the tip place (figures 3, 5, 7 & 8, col. 4 lines 26-45, col. 5 lines 20-23). Additionally, Coggin, Jr. discloses tip or nozzles extending from a lower surface of a tip plate as typical in prior art (col. 1 lines 24-27).

14. Additionally, claims 2 and 21 in copending application '836 and claims 25, 27, 29, and 31 in copending application ' 683 recite a similar limitation of a screen with different screen areas.

15. Hanna et al. teach of an interior support structure welded to a top surface of the tip plate for supporting the tip plate ([0033]). Additionally, the tip plate has at least 1600 orifices ([0030]). Furthermore, the interior support structure comprises a plurality of intersecting or crossing internal supports with angles between the intersecting supports

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at each intersection to form diamond shaped cells and attached to the sidewalls, end walls, and interior corners of the bushing and forming 47 cells located between the bottom of the screen and the top of the tip plate (figures 2, 4, and 5, [0033]).

16. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the interior support structure of Hanna et al. and the box shape bushing with the location of the screen in the bushing of the bushing of Coggin, Jr. in the bushing of the copending applications '863 and '683 to provide for a more uniform temperature for the molten glass supplied to the tip plate and to offer efficient support of the tip plate while encountering hot molten glass, as taught by Hanna et al.

17. This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

Response to Arguments

18. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-70 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. The prior art of Stalego and Harris has been provided to strictly teach the used of a screen with varying screen areas.

19. Applicant's arguments regarding the number of screen areas that the prior art of Stalego provides have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The number of screen areas is defined by the interior support structure. The applicant disclosure points to 3 areas of hole size in figure 9, similar to argument presented by the applicant regarding Stalego.

20. It is noted that the prosecution history of another application, specifically the decisions of Board of Appeals No. 2000-0035, is independent to the prosecution of the current application.
21. Please note that the Drawing objection has not been withdrawn because a replacement figure has not been received, as mentioned in the remarks.
22. Please note the Terminal Disclaimer mentioned to be enclosed has also not been received, hence the double patenting rejections remains.

Conclusion

23. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

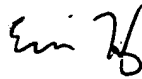
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Queenie Dehghan whose telephone number is (571)272-8209. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:30am - 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven Griffin can be reached on 571-272-1189. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Q Dehghan


ERIC HUG
PRIMARY EXAMINER